

# Proposed Sanitary Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

## Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Danielle

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

## Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Fully Supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Women should not have to have the unnecessary expense of something we have no choice about. This is a tax on being female

## Page 8: Universal provision of sanitary products

Q2. Do you think a universal, card-based system (modelled on the c-card system for free condoms) would be an effective means of providing sanitary products for free to those who need them?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I think it should be open to all women but potentially limited to certain brands as certain ones are more expensive than others. In terms of distribution, could women of a certain age not receive them through a monthly delivery or another way that doesn't show they are utilizing a free service.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Limiting the products is definitely a way to keep the cost down however if this option was to go ahead would it not be covered by tax payers money therefore I would still be paying for them in a round about manner. It would only be free for those who did not pay tax. A card system could also make women feel looked down on if it is only for those who can't afford to pay for them

Q4. Do you have a view on which locations would be most suitable for dispensing free sanitary products (e.g. GP surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, health clinics)?

Pharmacies as it would enable some degree of normality without getting in the way of busy GP practices or health clinics

## Page 11: Schools, colleges and universities

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Stops younger girls being under pressure to ask for assistance from parents and stop them getting caught

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

short when their bodies are still maturing

## Page 12: Personal experience (questions 6 and 7 are for individual respondents only)

Q6. Have you ever struggled to access or afford sanitary products during menstruation? (e.g. financial barriers, unexpected circumstances, health issues)

No

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I would probably only take them for free if I was offered during a doctors/nurse appointment or collecting a prescription

## Page 14: Financial implications

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)	X					
(b) Colleges and universities		X				
(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)			X			
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)				X		

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Ultimately the cost will be incurred somewhere whether through taxation or the government/suppliers taking

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

the hit. It will be 'free' for very few women

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

I think if it gave reusable items such as moon cups as a sanitary product. Yes it has a higher price but it reduces landfill, can be recycled and can be used many times meaning women wouldn't need to take advantage of a free service as regularly. This would reduce spend and environmental damage as well as reduce the risk of TSS.

## Page 16: Equalities

Q10. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Slightly positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Women will no longer incur a cost a man does not.

Q11. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

Unless men feel they are being short changed as they are not getting something required for free I am unsure of any impact.

## Page 18: Sustainability

Q12. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

It will increase government spending and potentially cause relevant business to lose trade and cease trading. If it only goes to women on low incomes then it will give a larger social divide as it would be unfair.

## Page 19: General

Q13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

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*No Response*